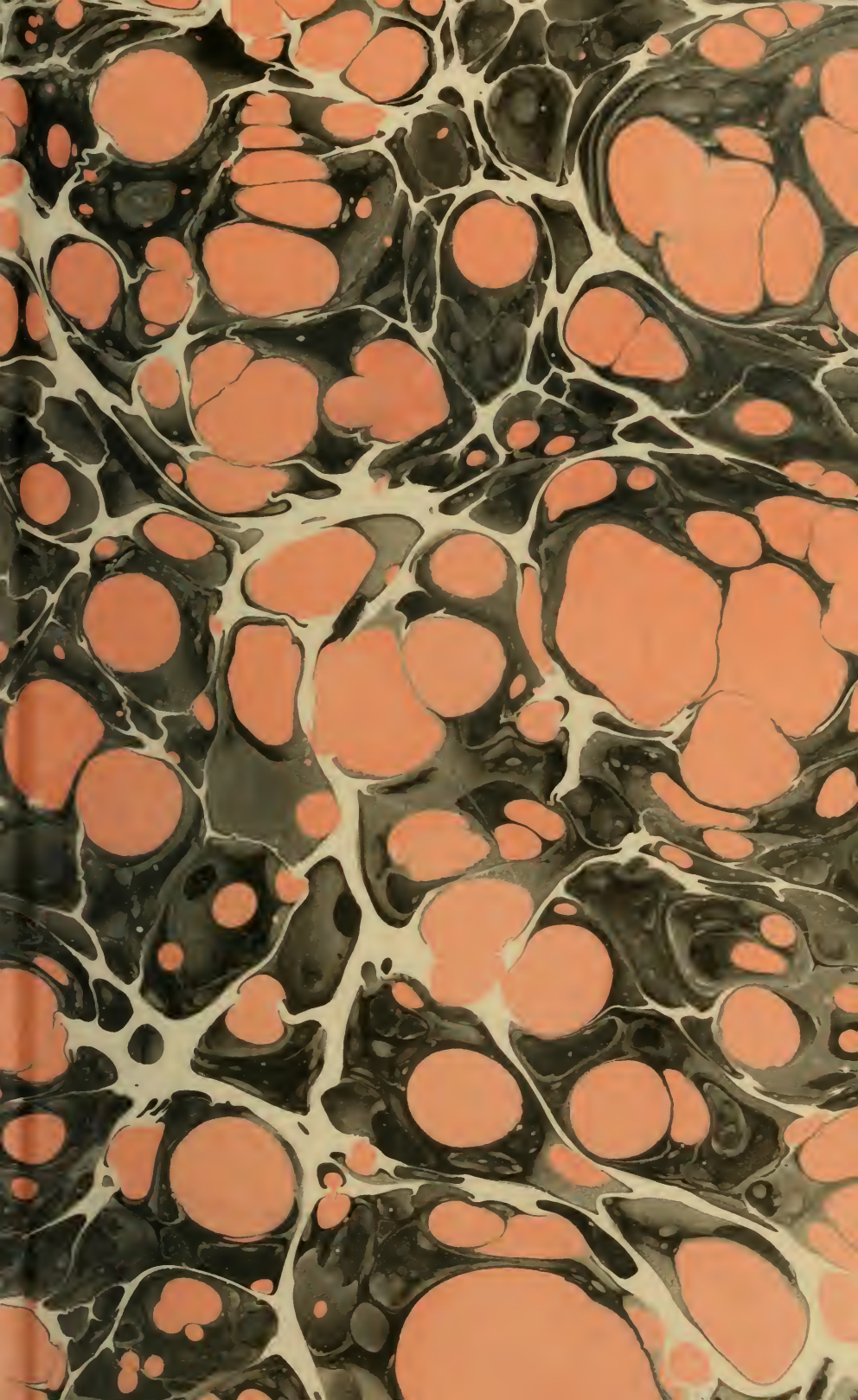

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A

SPEECH

AGAINST

Sir *R*----- *W*-----'s

PROPOSAL, &c.

A

SPEECH

AGAINST

Sir *R*----- *W*------'s

PROPOSAL

For increaſing the CIVIL LIST Revenue:

As it was Spoken in the Houſe of Commons, *July* 3. 1727.

By *W*------ *S*---*p*--*n*, Eſq;

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A

SPEECH

AGAINST

Sir *R*—— *W*———'s

PROPOSAL, &c.

I AGREE with *the Honourable Perſon* who ſpoke firſt, That *on His Majeſty's Happy Acceſſion to the Throne*, there ought to be no other *Contention* amongſt Us, than who ſhould moſt contribute to His *Service*,

Service, than who ſhould expreſs their *Duty*, and *Loyalty*, in the *moſt Reſpectful* and the *moſt Extenſive manner*. But then I hope he will agree with me, That this is to be done, with *ſome Regard to Thoſe We Repreſent*: That this is to be done, conſiſtent with *the Truſt* repoſed in us, conſiſtent with *that Frugality*, which *this Houſe is bound* to uſe, whenever *the Crown* is pleaſed to call upon it, to exerciſe its *Great Power of giving Money*.

Now, notwithſtanding what has been urged, I think we ſhall ſo far depart from *this Rule of Frugality*, as we exceed the *Revenue* granted to *His late Majeſty*, whether *that Exceeding* ſhall amount yearly to *Ninety Three Thouſand Pounds*, as computed at the higheſt by *the Honourable Perſon*, or to *Above an Hundred and Thirty Thouſand Pounds*, as I have ſeen it *more truly* computed by *Another*.

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£ 130,000

ther. For I remember very well, that the *yearly Sum of Seven Hundred Thouſand Pounds* (tho' now thought *too little*) was not obtained for *His late Majeſty*, without a *long* and *ſolemn Debate*; and it was allowed by every one that contended for it, to be an *Ample Royal Revenue.* Nor was it ask'd inconſiderately, and on a ſudden; it was asked on mature Deliberation, after *the Queen's Civil Liſt Branches* were found *deficient*; it was asked after *many Computations* had been made of *every Charge* requiſite to ſupport *the Honour and Dignity of the Crown*, and to maintain *the preſent Royal Family*: It was asked after *duly weighing*, *what Proviſion* would be ſufficient to anſwer *all the ordinary and extraordinary Occaſions of the Civil Government*; what would be ſufficient to anſwer *all Proper Augmentations of Salaries*, *all Reaſonable and Charitable Penſions*, *all Secret Services at Home and Abroad*, neceſſary

£ 700,000

to

to carry on *a juſt and wiſe Adminiſtration*: It was asked by the *Honourable Perſon Himſelf*, and *Others*, who were *entering into great Imployments*, who were *going to taſte of the Royal Bounty*, and who therefore could not poſſibly be ſuſpected to have any Deſign of *cramping His Majeſty*, by a *too contracted and narrow Revenue*.

NOR does *the late Alteration* in the *Royal Family* call for *any Increaſe of Expence*. For if *the Eſtabliſhment for the Queen* ſhould be *enlarged*, whoſe *Diſtinguiſhed Character*, and *many Princely Virtues* (taken Notice of in *Your Addreſs*) entitle her to *all Degrees of Grandeur*, which any former *Queen Conſort* ever enjoyed; I ſay, if *Her Eſtabliſhment* ſhould be *enlarged*, I preſume *the Eſtabliſhment for Prince* FREDERICK will be *much inferior* to *that* ſettled on *His preſent Majeſty*, when *Prince of* Wales. Beſides, *our ardent Wiſhes* for *His Maje-*

Majeſty's conſtant Reſidence in theſe Kingdoms, and *His Royal Intentions* of *making us a great and happy People*, give us Hopes, that *many Perſonal*, *many Particular Expences* in *the late Reign*, eſpecially *thoſe for frequent Journies to* Hanover, will be diſcontinued, and entirely ceaſe.

NOR is it *any Objection* to *the Reaſoning of that Time*, when *the Seven Hundred Thouſand Pounds* were granted to *the late King*, or to *the Computations* then made, that *This Sum* is ſaid to have been *found by* THE EXPERIENCE OF PAST TIMES, *to be anſwerable to the Neceſſities of the Civil Government.*

FOR THIS EXPERIENCE could not *be found* in *the Queen's Reign*, becauſe *Her Civil Liſt Branches* ſeldom amounted to *Six Hundred Thouſand Pounds*, commonly to *about Five Hundred and Fifty Thouſand*

 Pounds,

Pounds, and ſometimes *to a very little above Five Hundred Thouſand Pounds*, as appears *by Accounts* formerly laid before this Houſe, and I will not ſuppoſe *thoſe Accounts*, which were brought from *the Treaſury* to be *otherwiſe than true*, in Regard to *my Honourable Friend*------- I ask Pardon------I ſhould have ſaid, *the Honourable Perſon*, for there is *no Friendſhip* betwixt us. But He muſt give me Leave to obſerve, That when He aſſerts, *Her Civil Liſt Branches* amounted to *above Seven Hundred Thouſand Pounds yearly*, He can only mean *the groſs*, and not *the neat Produce*, which is a very *Uncandid* and *Fallacious* way of Arguing.

THO' *Her Revenues* were *ſo low*, yet She called upon Her Parliament but *once* in a Reign of above Thirteen Years, to pay *the Debts contracted in Her Civil Government*; and it is a Juſtice due to the Memory of

of *That Excellent Princeſs*, to remind Gentlemen of *the unparallel'd Inſtances of Her Piety and Generoſity*, which occaſioned *thoſe Debts*. She gave *the Firſt Fruits and Tenths*, ariſing now (as *the Honourable Perſon* ſays) to *Nineteen Thouſand Pounds a Year*, for the *Augmentation of the Maintenance of the Poor Clergy*. She gave *Five Thouſand Pounds a Year* out of *the Poſt-Office* to *the Duke of* Marlborough: She ſuffer'd *Seven Hundred Pounds a Week* to be likewiſe charged on *the Poſt-Office*, for *the Publick Service*, and by that Conceſſion loſt *a vaſt Sum*; the *Additional Duty then producing only Eight Thouſand Pounds a Year*. She gave *ſeveral Hundred Thouſand Pounds* for building *the Caſtle of* Blenheim. She allowed *Prince* Charles *of* Denmark *Four Thouſand Pounds a Year*. She ſuſtained great Loſſes by *the Tin Contract*. She ſupported *the poor* Palatines. Theſe, with *many other Royal Boun-*

ties * (which eſcape my *preſent Remembrance*) were the Reaſons, that brought Her under a *Neceſſity* of asking for *Five Hundred Thouſand Pounds*. But She was ſo ſenſible of *the Inconvenience*, and ſo determined never to apply to Her Parliament again in *the like Manner*, that She ordered *a conſiderable Reduction* to be made of Her *Civil Government Expences*. I have ſeen *a Scheme of that Reduction*, as it was *actually ſettled* a little before Her Death, and intended *to commence the* Lady-Day *following*. 'Twould be tedious to go thro' *all the particular Articles of it*, and I will only name *three or four*. *The Cofferer's Office* Payments were *reduced* from *Eighty Five Thouſand Pounds* to *Seventy Five Thouſand*. *The Allowances for Foreign Miniſters*,

* She gave *An Hundred Thouſand Pounds* to *the Uſes of the War*.

from

from *Seventy Five Thouſand Pounds* to *Thirty Thouſand*. *Penſions* and *Bounties* from *Eighty Seven Thouſand Four Hundred and Ninety odd Pounds*, to *Sixty Thouſand*. *Secret Services* from *Twenty Seven Thouſand Pounds* to *Twenty Thouſand*; a Sum *ſurprizingly ſmall!* when compared with *the late Diſburſements on that Head*. In ſhort, *the whole yearly Expences* were deſigned to be *Reduced* to *Four Hundred Fifty Nine Thouſand Nine Hundred Forty One Pounds*; and that would have been done, without *eclipſing the Glory of the Crown*, which *ſome Gentlemen ſo roundly affirm*, cannot *Now* be maintained under *almoſt a Double Appointment*.

From hence it appears plainly, that this Argument of The Experience of paſt Times, can have no Reference to *the Queen's Reign*. It muſt therefore be applied (tho' put in *the Plural Number*) to *the*

the late Administration Only; and I confeſs, if *the ſame Management* was to be *continued*, if the *ſame Miniſters* were to be *again employed*, *a Million a Year* would not be ſufficient to carry on *the Exorbitant Expences*, ſo often, and ſo juſtly complained of in *this Houſe*. For it is *Notorious*, it is Freſh in all our Memories, that beſides *the Yearly Seven Hundred Thouſand Pounds*, there have been many *Occaſional Taxes*, many *exceſſive Sums* raiſed, and they have been All ſunk in **that bottomleſs Gulf of Secret Service**. Firſt, *the memorable Two Hundred and Fifty Thouſand Pounds* were raiſed (in Defiance of the ancient Parliamentary Methods) to ſecure us from the *Apprehenſions of a* Swediſh *Invaſion*. Then the *two Inſurance Offices* were erected in as *Irregular a Manner*, by *a Bill* brought into this Houſe (at the latter End of a Seſſion, and after *the Committee of Supply* had been *cloſed*) by

by *the Honourable Perſon*, on *His Return into Power*, and *thoſe* **Bubbles** payed *near Three Hundred Thouſand Pounds* for *their Charters*. Then a *new Scene of Affairs opening in* Sweden, changed *our Enmity* into *an Alliance*; there was *a Subſidy of Seventy Two Thouſand Pounds* implicitly granted to make good **ſome ſecret Bargain**, and *Engagement with that Crown*. At the ſame time, *near Twenty Four Thouſand Pounds* were given for *burning two Merchant Ships* arrived from *infected Places*. But tho' *the Goods*, as well as *the Ships*, were payed for by *this Houſe*, that they might (without Injury to *the Owners*) be deſtroyed for *the publick Safety*, yet moſt of them were *privately conveyed* into the Counties adjacent to *the Port* where the Ships lay, and *Sold* there. Then ſoon after *a Sum of Five Hundred Thouſand Pounds* was *demanded* and *granted* for the Payment of *the Civil Liſt Debts:*

Debts: On which Occaſion *His late Majeſty* declared in *His Meſſage*, that *He was reſolved to cauſe a Retrenchment to be made of His Expences for the future.* But notwithſtanding *that Reſolution*, in leſs than four Years (*the Neceſſities of the Government having rendered* the promiſed Retrenchment *impracticable*) there was *a new Demand*, and *a new Grant* of *Five Hundred Thouſand Pounds* more, to diſcharge *new Incumbrances*. I might mention too *the* Spaniſh *Ships* which were taken in *the famous Mediterranean Sea-Fight*, and (as we have Reaſon to believe) ſold for *a conſiderable Sum of Money*. Nor is it poſſible to forget *the Hundred and Twenty Thouſand Pounds*, which we could only be told the laſt Seſſion (in a *general unexplained Article*) were **ſecretly** diſpoſed of, for *the publick Utility*, for the *Conſervation of the Peace of* Europe, and for the

the *Security of the Commerce, and Navigation of* Great Britain.

AFTER all Theſe and Other *Extraordinary Supplies* (I am informed) there yet remains *a Debt in the Civil Government of above Six Hundred Thouſand Pounds.* If ſo, ſurely there muſt have been a *moſt egregious Neglect of Duty*, to ſay no worſe; there muſt have been *a Strange Spirit of Extravagance* ſomewhere, or *ſuch Immenſe Sums* could never have been ſo ſoon, ſo inſenſibly *ſquandered away.* And it is amazing, *this Extravagance* ſhould happen under *the Conduct of Perſons* pretending to ſurpaſs *all their Predeceſſors* in *the Knowledge and Care of the Publick Revenue:* But we are not to wonder, that the World has been *very free in its Cenſures*, ſince none of *theſe Sums* have been *accounted for*, ſince they have been imployed in *Services not fit to be owned.* None but thoſe, who were in the

Secret, and who had *the Diſpoſal* of them, can refute *the Reflections*, that are made without Doors, not only on *the Miniſtry*, but even on *both Houſes of Parliament*.——I muſt ſay no more——But I heartily wiſh, that *Time* (the great Diſcoverer of *hidden Truths*, and *concealed Iniquities*) may produce a **Liſt** of All *Such* (if any *Such* there were) who have been perverted from their *Publick Duty*, by *private Penſions*, who have been **the Hired Slaves, and the corrupt Inſtruments of a Profuſe, and Vain-glorious Adminiſtration.** If there have been none *Such*, then the whole Weight, then the whole Guilt of the *late Miſmanagements* lies on *the Miniſters themſelves*.

But it ſeems to be Matter of *univerſal Joy* to the Nation, that *the Caſe* is like to be *altered*. We hope we

we are arrived at *a Day of better OEconomy*, we hope *ſuch Practices* will be ſo far from being *imitated*, that they will be *deteſted and abhorred*. Nor can any one entertain the leaſt Doubt of this, when He conſiders, *a Prince is aſcending the Throne*, who will chooſe a *knowing*, *faithful and frugal Miniſtry*; who will not permit *His Domeſtick* or *Foreign Affairs* to be *negotiated* by *Bribery*, and *Corruption*, for want of *Sufficiency and Skill in Politicks*; Whoſe Wiſdom will enable Him, and whoſe *Goodneſs* will incline Him, not only to *inſpect* the *Management* of *His Civil Liſt Branches*, but in *Juſtice* to His Parliaments, and in *Compaſſion* to His People, to *direct* and *require* a due and exact Diſpoſition of *all the Other Publick Fonds*, according to their *reſpective Appropriations*.

Now, in Conſequence of this moſt juſt Notion of *His Majeſty's*

Frugality (which amongſt *other His innumerable Virtues*, endears Him ſo much to His Subjects) I hope I may, without Offence, propoſe the Addition of *ſome Words to Your Queſtion*, that may reſtrain it to *Seven Hundred Thouſand Pounds*; and in this I as much conſult *the Service of His Majeſty*, and *the Honour and Dignity of the Crown*, as Thoſe, who are for granting *the Fonds* without *any Reſtriction*. For (in my humble Opinion) *the Voting a greater Sum* than was ſettled on *His late Majeſty*, is only *Voting an Indemnity*, is *Voting* at leaſt in *Favour of Miniſters*, whoſe *Conduct* (as I have already hinted) if *laid* before You, and *duly Examined*, would perhaps rather deſerve *Your Cenſure*, than *Approbation*.

BESIDES, *the Surplus of theſe Branches* is *appropriated* to **The Sinking**

Sinking Fond; and *That*, I thought, had been *a Sacred Depoſitum*, reſerved for the *gradual Diſcharge of the* **National Debt.** I thought it would have been look'd upon as *a Sort of Sacrilege*, to have diverted the leaſt Part of it (on any Pretence whatſoever) from *its original Uſes*; and it is as ſurprizing to me, that *The Honourable Perſon* ſhould be for deſtroying *His own Darling Project*; that He ſhould be for pulling down *the boaſted Monument of His Glory*, as it may be to others, that I am for ſupporting *any Scheme of His*, which might have tranſmitted *His Name* with *Advantage* to Poſterity.

If *His Majeſty* was rightly apprized of *theſe Circumſtances*, He would doubtleſs rather be content with *a clear annual Revenue of Seven Hundred Thouſand Pounds*, than ſuffer

ſuffer *His Firſt Demand of Money*, (by any *precipitate Proof of our Zeal*) to carry the leaſt Appearance of being *burthenſome to His People*, who have long laboured under *the Preſſure of* **Grievous** *and* **Exorbitant Taxes.** For He has been graciouſly pleaſed to *ſignify* from *the Throne, His Fixed Reſolution*,

By all poſſible Means to merit their Love and Affection, which He ſhall always look upon as the beſt Support and Security of His Crown.

I WILL detain You, Sir, no longer, but deſire You would conclude *Your Queſtion* with theſe Words,

In

In like manner as they were granted and continued to His late Majeſty, which may make up the clear yearly Sum of Seven Hundred Thouſand Pounds.

F I N I S.